GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:447
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2000
IODISED SALT AT SUBSIDIZED RATE
JASWANT SINGH YADAV;SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering/providing iodised salt to the poor people at subsidized rate;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Salt Commission has conducted preliminary assessment of this scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a)to(d): A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRE QUESTION NO. 447 FOR 20.12.2000

Government considered a suggestion to provide iodized salt to the population below the poverty line at a subsidized rate. The idea was discussed with all concerned, including the Salt Commissioner, but was not found feasible for the following reasons:

1. Several States/Union Territories are already supplying iodized salt through the Public Distribution System covering all or part of their population.

2. There is negligible difference between the price of loose iodized salt and non-iodized salt.

3. The coverage of iodized salt all over the country has already reached 70% without any subsidy.

It was also felt that consumption of iodized salt was not popular in some areas mainly due to lack of knowledge about its beneficial impact on human health. Therefore, it has been decided to create public awareness about the comparative advantage of consuming iodized salt and its relative affordability, particularly amongst those living in rural, remote, and tribal areas and in urban slums.